

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 SAJ-01 BIB-01 ACDA-10 OMB-01 IO-10

NIC-01 EB-07 /106 W

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R 071615Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2857

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCON LUANDA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 00096

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE CENTRISTS VISIT BRUSSELS

1. BELGIAN PRESS JANUARY 7 RREPORTED ON PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY PROFESSOR DIOGO FREITAS DO AMARAL, MEMBER OF PORTUGUESE COUNCIL OF STATE AND REPRESENTATIVE OF "DEMOCRATIC AND SOCIAL CENTER" PARTY (CDS). FREITAS DO AMARAL AND SECOND, UNNAMED REPRESENTATIVE OF CDS PASSED THROUGH BRUSSELS ON WAY TO PARIS AS PART OF TOUR DESIGNED TO ACQUAINT WEST EUROPEANS WITH CDS.

2. AT PRESS CONFERENCE FREITAS DO AMARAL EXPRESSED HIS CONVICTION THAT PORTUGUESE MILIARY WOULD MAKE GOOD ON PROMISE NOT TO RETAIN POWER IN PORTUGAL BUT WOULD LEAD COUNTRY TO FREE ELECTIONS AND ACCEPT RESULTS, NO MATTER WHICH PARTY EMERGED STRONGEST. HE DISCOUNTED REPORTS THAT ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT IS ENTIRELY DOMINATED BY LEFT, NOTING THAT WHEN TWO MEMBERS OF JUNTA WERE CHOSEN TO REPLACE SPINOLA'S

COLLABORATORS, CENTRIST WERE CHOSEN BY SECRET BALLOT. HE CITED THIS AS EVIDENCE THAT MODERATE CURRENT IS STRONGEST

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IN MFA.

3. FREITAS DO AMARAL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PORTUGUESE COMMUNITST ARE WELL-ORGANIZED AND STRONGLY SUPPORTED FROM OUTSIDE PORTUGAL. HE INSISTED, HOWEVER, THAT THEIR STRENGTH IS EXAGGERATED AND THAT IN FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS THEY WELL NOT GAIN VOTES EXPECTED, WHILE CENTER HAS CHANCE TO INCREASE STRENGTH. HE CHARGED THAT INTERNATIONAL PRESS HAD PRESENTED EVENTS OF SEPTEMBER 28 AS LEFTIST COUP, WHEN IN REALITY THEY RESULTED FROM RIGHTIST PLOT WHICH WAS DE-RAILED TO LARGE EXTENT BY ACTION OF MILITANTS OF PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT.

3. FURTHER ON ELECTIONS, FREITAS DO AMARAL SAID IT WAS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY THAT THEY TAKE PLACE IN MARCH AS PLANNED, SINCE EVERYONE IS AWAITING RESULTS BERORE COMMITTING THEMSELVES ON FUTURE ACTION. PORTUGUESE INDUSTRIALISTS AND FOREIGN INVESTORS ARE NOT INVESTING BECAUSE THEY DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT, WHILE UNEMPLOYMENT IS GROWING AND MAY REACH 10 PERCENT IN NEAR FUTURE. THUS ELECTIONS ARE IMPORTANT STEP IN REINVIGORATING PORTUGUES ECONOMY. FIRESTONE

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